The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Nothing under the sun is accident.—Lossing.

WHOLE NO. 956. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 21.

Churches Urged To "Take Hazards"; Study Of Trade Union Ethics Advised

New York, Aug. 3.—Church people should be "more willing to take hazards for righteousness," should study unionism and insist that their church organizations examine its practice as an employer that they do not lower living standards in the interest of economy.

The above feature the "Labor Sunday Message for 1929," issued by the Commission on the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

"First of all," the statement says, "every local church and organization of churches needs to examine its own practice as employer with reference to staff workers and caretakers, employes in denominational offices and publishing houses and practices in building and letting of contracts for printing, repairs, equipment and all other enterprises. The churches must not compromise their own teaching out of a desire for economy. They cannot afford to contribute to the lowering of living standards nor to the disorganization of labor. Rather the churches should take the lead in raising standards.

"Church people should study the history of the labor movement so as to appreciate its significance in the struggle for better standards of life. It is neither partisan nor inappropriate to invite a labor representative to speak in the church on the ideals of the labor movement and the achievements of labor organizations for the better life of the work people.

"All Christians should become conscious of the basic social and ethical problems of our industrial civilization. They are human problems. The churches must be more aggressive, more informed, more willing to take hazards for righteousness, more swift to come to the help of the oppressed, if they are to fulfill the mission of Christ and are to make that contribution to social welfare which can rightfully be expected of them."

STOCK JUGGLING TRICKS LABOR; TRADE UNIONS AGAIN UPHELD

Philadelphia, Aug. 3.—High finance methods by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company are exposed by Dr. Milo R. Maltbie, New York public utilities expert, in a report to city officials.

Hundreds of dollars have been wasted and funds are juggled between the company and financial institutions that are operated by men who control the company.

The report is of special interest to organized workers because of the wide publicity given Mitten Management employes' stock ownership that employes of this corporation accepted as a substitute for trade unionism. These workers can operate street cars, but they now realize they can be tricked by stock manipulators.

The Maltbie report follows an expose of similar high finance methods by trustees of the employes' stock. The workers bought this stock with wage increases. The more gullible amongst them pictured the time when they would control the property.

It is now shown how easily these workers were tricked. Trustees selected by them were secretly induced to exchange the 221,500 shares of employes' stock for preferred stock of the Mitten Bank Securities Corporation. This financial institution operates the Rapid Transit Company and other Mitten properties.

The Transit stock, which the workers surrendered, has since increased in value and employes have lost more than $2,000,000.

The scandal is a hard blow to employes' stock ownership. This scheme is the darling of anti-union employers and their high-salaried press agents who would discourage trade unionism.

COURTS REFUSE AID ON SLIGHT PRETEXT

Washington, Aug. 3.—The failure of a group of Illinois miners to secure court relief from an order by their international officials again calls attention to the unvarying policy of courts in these cases.

A long line of decisions have held that plaintiffs must exhaust every remedy provided by their constitution and by-laws. Courts hold, in effect, that when a worker joins a trade union he pledges to abide by these rules and this practice must be followed before he can ask them for relief.

Courts take this position not because of especial friendship for trade unions, but because a contrary ruling would affect fraternal organizations and other groups that are formed on a voluntary and co-operative basis.

If the courts' consistent view were rejected judges would be called upon to pass on every grievance by individuals who could evade the agreement they made when they joined such trade union or other voluntary organization.

MINERS ASK M'DONALD FOR SHORTER HOURS

London, England, Aug. 3.—The Miners' Federation of Great Britain has called on Premier MacDonald in favor repeal of the miners' eight-hour law, passed by Parliament three years ago.

The Labor Party is pledged to repeal the law, but is confronted by the employers' claim that compliance at this time will cause many pits to close. Talk of a seven and one-half day compromise is heard.

An eight-hour day does not include time to reach the workings, after miners descend the shaft. Some of these workings are long distances from the mine opening.

PLASTERERS GAIN

Boston, Aug. 3.—Organized plasterers in this city raised wages $1 a day. The new rate is $13 for two years. More than 1,800 workers are benefited.

TRADE UNION WOMEN AID TEXTILE LABOR

Philadelphia, Aug. 3.—The Women's Trade Union League adopted a novel plan to aid the United Textile Workers' organizing campaign in the South.

A miniature metal spinning wheel that can be pinned to the coat lapel or the waist line is being sold by the league. The pins are being distributed throughout the nation to active workers who will dispose of the emblems in their respective localities. The money is forwarded to Miss Edith Christensen, secretary of the League, at 929 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, who will turn same over to the United Textile Workers.

"The Southern textile worker is coming into the A. F. of L. for keeps," said Thomas F. McMahon, president United Textile Workers. "More than 60 locals in various parts of the South have been formed since the new rebellion started last spring in Elizabethton.

"No matter how economically this campaign is conducted, it will take far greater sums than the United Textile Workers can raise by merely assessing its own membership, which has splendidly contributed to this cause for months past."

"Every spinning wheel we sell is an aid to the crusade in behalf of women and children in the South," said Miss Christensen. "Every citizen who is interested in the improvement of social conditions should join this drive against exploitation by Southern mill owners."

DISTRIBUTION COSTS UNKNOWN TO BUSINESS

Washington, Aug. 3.—Secretary of Commerce Lamont made a radio appeal for nation-wide aid in the census of distribution costs that will be taken next spring.

Production costs have been lowered, but distribution costs increase. "We hear from all sides serious complaints regarding the cost of getting commodities from producers to consumers," said the chain store head.

"Enormous amounts of money have been expended by business men to reduce production costs, but little progress has been made in reducing the cost of distribution," he said.

INDUSTRY, NOT COMMUNITY CHESTS, MUST PAY COST FOR EVIL EFFECTS

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—"Those who make profit should divide from their profits," declared Rev. John M. Meiwey, director Catholic charities of Denver at the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems in this city.

The speaker denounced the attempt to substitute charity and philanthropy "called community chests," for a sufficient wage. Millions of dollars are annually distributed to provide for the unemployed, the underpaid and their families, he said. Six associations doing welfare work in Denver expended $339,000 last year for family welfare and relief. This expenditure, declared the clergyman, "is the direct and immediate cause for insufficient wages and unemployment."

"Industry has failed to give sufficient wages and regular employment and society has not attempted to solve the unemployment problem. They who make profits should divide from their profits.

"Industry directly, not the churches and philanthropic bodies called community chests, nor taxpayers, must provide this relief which industry makes necessary."

Rev. Bruno Lasker of Long Beach, Calif., was equally vigorous in opposing the substitution of charity and philanthropy for wages.

"If the day ever comes," said Fr. Lucey, "when the ethics of fair wages are forgotten and free education and free charity are generally rated as income, it will be a sad day for humanity. If the rising tide of relief or the mounting charity bill is to fill up the measure of the living wage, then honorable justice and intelligent charity are dead."

Red Lingo No Substitute For National Ideals

Soviet Russia and China are clashing over control of a railroad in Manchuria, located in Northeast China. War talk has subsided, but fundamental causes are unchanged.

On its face, this dispute is no different from any other controversy between two nations.

But this is not an ordinary dispute. The Soviet government professes faith in international brotherhood, opposition to war and to vicious propaganda that arouses blind chauvanism and an unreasoning nationalism.

This is the vote-catching, power-seeking side of Soviet politicians, who are now called upon to face stern realities and carry out the historic policy of Russia.

Russia is aflame with manufactured sentiment for the "proletarian fatherland," and these peoples are being lashed to a war fury, just as are peoples in wicked capitalistic countries.

Men may differ as to the justness of the Soviet claim that Chinese territory is needed for their railroad to Vladivostok and a warm water port all the year round, but no fair-minded man can defend hypocrisy of the Communist-controlled government who forget their lofty ideals when they would grab territory from another people.

Events in Manchuria prove that it makes no difference whether Nicholas II or Joseph Stallin is czar of Russia—the historic national policy of that country will continue.

High-sounding phrases may sway unthinking workers, fever-heat sentimentalists and oozy liberals, but hard-headed trade unionists know that nations do not change their centuries-old ideals as a person discards an old coat.

Outward forms and mass-moving resolutions are ignored by students of a national life that slowly develops as the result of economic needs.

LABOR DAY PURPOSE SHOULD BE OBSERVED

Washington, Aug. 3.—A nation-wide observance of Labor Day is urged by William Green, president A. F. of L., in a letter to all city central bodies.

"If organized labor of your city has not already made plans for Labor Day, I urge that you immediately do so," said the A. F. of L. executive. "If Labor Day is to serve its highest purpose and render effective aid to our movement, it should be a holy day in the original significance of the word.

"Whatever your plans may be, it would be well to include consideration of the automobile, the radio, the airship. These great agencies of industry, recreation and modern living have so altered the habits and lives of our people that all plans for Labor Day must take them into account.

"Plan out-door meetings, with speaking and singing, games, sports, contests for all, if possible. Invite prominent speakers for your public meetings. Enlist your community in your plans for parades, labor meetings, entertainments. The Chamber of Commerce, the churches, the various business and civic bodies, the teachers' organizations, should be invited to join.

"I am sure you can make Labor Day 1929 a great success. I urge you to make every possible effort."

RECOGNIZE UNIONISM, STATE BOARD ORDERS

Denver, Aug. 3.—The State Industrial Commission ruled that employers "should recognize the right of employes to organize and bargain collectively."

The decision was made in a wage award to the Building and Common Laborers' union. Rates ranged from 50 to 60 cents an hour and the commission declared that "this is not a living wage." The scale was increased to $5, and the eight-hour day was substituted for a work day of from eight to 12 hours.

INJUNCTION JUDGE WILL LET MEN TALK

New Orleans, Aug. 3.—The injunction against striking street car men and sympathizers has been modified that citizens are "permitted" to talk.

Federal Judge Borah graciously granted this concession at a conference with strikers and their attorneys. The likely edict was altered to the extent that street car men may actually plead with a prospective customer of the company not to ride on the cars. Any man who was arrested for appealing to two Japanese sailors was released from jail after 24 hours' reflection on whether he was the free American or ancient Rome.

The strikers are not jubilant over the injunction amendment, as they are well aware that the power to concede a right carries with it the power to annul that right.

CHAIN STORES MAY BE TAXED

Madison, Wis., Aug. 3.—The State Senate passed the Overtoom bill which levies a tax on chain stores. The license is graduated, starting with $1 for one store until it mounts to $1,000 per store where there are 20 or more units in the chain in the state.

Attorney General Reynolds ruled that the bill is unconstitutional.

TALK ONE WAY: ACT ANOTHER

Business practices before the World War are obsolete and the edicts of business men's associations are enforced by the Federal Trade Commission.

Steel furniture manufacturers are the latest to have their trade rules approved by the Commission. Rebates and commissions in every form are prohibited, standard prices must be adhered to, and no firm can induce a prospective customer from patronizing a competitor.

Every industry is undergoing this change from free competition to standardized practices with the aid of government.

And in the meantime business men insist on "less government in business."

Judges, of course, are expected to continue their age-long individualistic practices. When they effectively unite, a labor injunction judge cries: "Conspiracy in restraint of trade."

PROFIT KNOWS NO FLAG

Americanization of world industry is an anti-war factor that should not be overlooked.

Material interest is a driving force for peace.

The dollar is being internationalized and American dividends are earned abroad.

Factories in foreign countries, built by American capital, supply markets formerly held by American-made commodities.

Parallel with this movement is billions of dollars loaned abroad by American investors.

Sentiment for international peace will grow as dividend-seekers break down national lines and a narrow chauvanism that is meat and drink to jingoes.

Profit knows no flag.

Centuries ago it was written in the Book of Books: "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

CHILD HEALTH STUDY STARTED BY HOOVER

Washington, Aug. 3.—"Child welfare reaches to the roots of democracy itself," said President Hoover at the first meeting of the planning committee for the Child Welfare Conference.

The planning committee will do all of the preliminary work and develop facts for the conference.

"We should take national stock of the progress and present situation in the health and protection of childhood; out of this investigation we should also develop common-sense plans for the further development in these directions," said the President.

"I need not urge upon you the fundamental importance of this undertaking. The greatest asset of a race is its children, that their bodily strength and development should prepare them to receive the heritage which each generation must bequeath to the next."

Secretary of the Interior Wilbur is chairman of the committee, which includes William Green, president A. F. of L., and a score of men and women who represent practically every large group of citizens.

This will be the third of such conferences. The first was in the Roosevelt administration and lead to the establishment of the United States Child Welfare Bureau. The second conference, in the Wilson administration, produced beneficial results for expanding the duties of that bureau.

RAILROADS WELCOME PRIVATE CAR RULING

New York, Aug. 3.—Railroad managements are losing no sleep over the recent Interstate Commerce Commission order that they desist from hauling private cars without cost. The report rebukes the carriers for this policy, but the railroads are now in a position to politely refuse requests from large shippers and other influential personages that they and their friends be carried to pleasure resorts and fed in private cars for the price of an ordinary day coach fare.

CORPORATION PROFITS JUMP FIRST HALF 1929

Washington, Aug. 3.—Treasury officials believe all records for corporation profits will be broken in the first six months of 1929.

These records are not blazoned with red head lines in the daily press, but can be found in modest announcements on financial pages which are rarely read by those citizens who are interested in air ship flights and base ball standings.

The reports show increased earnings in all branches of industry. The steel industry is breaking peace time records in the volume of output and profits. Railroads are showing bigger earnings and the same is true of electrical manufacturing companies, public utilities, auto manufacturers, copper companies, dairy products, banks and other enterprises.

Income tax payments for the fiscal year which closed June 30, totaled $2-331,109,826, an increase of $166,536,724 over the previous fiscal year.

VAST POPULATIONS DOESN'T MEAN SAFETY

Washington, Aug. 3.—"We like to brag about our population, but some day it may strike us that mere population does not mean prosperity or happiness or safety of government," said Congressman Johnson of Washington, in discussing immigration.

Mr. Johnson is chairman of the House Committee on Immigration. The people, he said, would suspend immigration if they could, but added that the most earnest restrictionists of immigration see difficulties and dangers of complete suspension. He said that more than one-half of the Senators and more than two-thirds of the House members favor sharper restriction and that demand for limitation of Mexican immigration is so insistent that all that seems to remain is the writing of a workable bill.

President Explains His Cruiser-Bill Policy

Washington, Aug. 3.—"President Hoover did not cancel the naval construction program ordered by the last Congress; the recent executive order was a postponement of that program," said James O'Connell and John P. Frey, president and secretary-treasurer Metal Trades Department A. F. of L., in a circular to affiliates.

The trade union officials made this announcement following a conference with the President, who frankly discussed his order.

Metal trades affiliates are informed that the building program for three cruisers to be constructed in navy yards was suspended by the President on July 24 "as a result of information that Premier MacDonald of Great Britain had suspended the building of cruisers as an evidence of good faith in Great Britain's desire to establish a naval construction program in harmony with the policy of the United States.

"The President pointed out that Premier MacDonald's official statement upon the British navy building program was Britain's first recognition of the United States' position on naval parity between the two countries.

"It was President Hoover's belief that within the very near future it would be possible to know whether this agreement could be reached with Great Britain relative to naval construction. If an agreement was reached the United States Government would proceed with a naval construction program for some time before actual parity of navies was established. If it proved impossible to reach such an agreement, then the probabilities were that this knowledge will be received in time to prevent any delay in laying down the keels in the three navy yards, as originally planned."

President Hoover was reported as disavowing either pacifist or militarist ideals, but as a believer in adequate national defense. He favored naval parity with Great Britain, but would secure this objective through agreement rather than through competitive naval construction.

"It was evident from the interview with President Hoover," continues the O'Connell-Frey statement, "that every effort will be made to reach a friendly understanding with Great Britain and to secure this at so early a date that should negotiations fail for any purpose, there will be no delay in the laying down of the keels as provided in the 15-cruiser bill.

"The President has made it plain that the principle of constructing eight of the 15 cruisers in navy yards would be carried into effect as a definite policy, and eventualities lead to a reduction in the total number.

"The reason that work on the three cruisers in navy yards was suspended, while no such action was taken on the two cruisers assigned to private yards, was that the government had entered into contracts with these ship building companies."

CAPITAL BUILDS FOREIGN PLANTS TO TAKE MARKETS FROM AMERICA

New York, Aug. 3.—The increasing establishment of American factories abroad "constitute a veritable menace to American foreign trade," declares Theodore M. Knappen in the Magazine of Wall Street.

It is estimated that there are 2,000 branch or independent American factories abroad and scarcely a day goes by without the chronicling of at least one more. Never has there been such a migration of industry. One of the latest announcements is that a plate-consuming plant at Ludlow, Maine, has been moved to India.

"The product of this concern," says Mr. Knappen, "will come back to the United States in place of the raw material; high-standard white men are 'out' of jobs in Ludlow, and 20-cent-a-day brown men are 'in' them in India.

"Over in Germany is an American built and owned hardware factory employing 600 men. When the wheels of that plant began to turn, those of the original plant in the United States stopped. The foreign trade in goods produced by that plant is now supplied from Germany.

"Of more general significance to labor and the American economic world in general is the case of the Ford tractor plant in Ireland. This plan is deliberately, deliberately intended, to supply Fordsons to the American as well as to the World market. A single Ford tractor will hereafter be made in this country. Rated as agricultural machinery, foreign-made tractors come into the United States free of duty. Ford has transferred his tractor industry from the United States to Ireland.

"In brief, the world's greatest nation we may become less and less its workshop and more and more its banking house; the scissors of our investors may be endlessly clicking as they cut coupons for interest from far lands and their bank accounts may swell with foreign-earned dividends, whilst jobs at home grow scarce and poorly paid.

"This migration of industry is marked by another feature—the shipment of machines to equip and modernize foreign factories, thus increasing their productivity and their competitive power. The exportation of American shoe making machinery, for example, has virtually eliminated shoe exports to Argentina, Mexico, and Cuba. American textile machinery in South America, the Orient and elsewhere is displacing American textiles.

"This migration policy adversely affects every one except owners of these plants who will continue to reside in America."

LONGSHOREMEN UNITE

Everett, Wash., Aug. 3.—Longshoremen in this city organized and are chartered by the International Longshoremen's Association.

OFFICIALS LACK NERVE TO FORCE ARBITRATION

New Orleans, Aug. 3.—Municipal officials can compel the street car company to arbitrate differences with striking employes, declare local trade unionists in any open letter to the New Orleans Commission Council.

The unionists question the courage of these officials, who claimed "We cannot do anything" when the company refused to arbitrate.

"Did you have in mind that kind of an answer when you declared that both the strikers and the company must accede to your demands (for arbitration)?" the unionists ask.

The city officials are called upon to answer if they will repeal the anti-jitney law and to also order a bond issue to take over the street car lines under a constitutional amendment.

"Sit down and vote a repeal of the ordinance prohibiting jitneys. Until you do this," the workers declare, "no man is safe while being driven from the streets any day. They are running today by mere suspension of what laws exist, and stable lines are not willing to take such chances, particularly in view of the way your position may be changed overnight. We will have the repealing ordinance drawn for you, if you wish, and you will only have to vote 'Yea.'"

The unionists are backed by an overwhelming public sentiment for arbitration and public officials will not be permitted to pursue a policy of evasion and delay by talks of special enabling acts by the State legislature. The unionists point out that the Commission Council has ample authority to act.

BIG BRITISH STRIKE CLOSES 1,800 MILLS

London, England, Aug. 3.—More than half a million workers employed in 1,800 cotton mills have suspended work pending acceptance of 12½ per cent wage reduction. The cut would be one-eighth of the total pay envelope.

The workers will arbitrate, but employers refuse. The struck area is around Manchester, the so-called "black country," which is the industrial part of England.

Ten per cent of the spinning mills in operation of the total manufacturing concerns remain open at the old rates of pay.

If the strike continues, other workers, including bleachers, dyers and finishers, will be thrown out of employment, as will miners and railroad workers who supply the 66,000 tons of coal used weekly in these mills.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Chicago, Aug. 3.—Officers of Illinois Federation of Labor issued the call for the annual convention at Rock Island Monday, September 9.

U. S. BOARD AIDS EMPLOYERS, BUT WORKERS ARE ENJOINED

Washington, Aug. 3.—The Federal Trade Commission approved rules of conduct for the cut stone industry which includes prohibition against inducing breach of contract and selling at or below costs.

The commission's decision is interesting as trade unionists because these business men, in April, 1927, secured a decision by the United States Supreme Court upholding an injunction against organized stone cutters (Bedford case) which compelled them to breach an agreement they made when they joined the union and forced them to handle non-union stone.

One branch of the government, the Federal Trade Commission, now upholds the employers' union, while another branch, the courts, through the Supreme Court, outlaws the same acts, when done by a union of wage earners.

In dissenting from the Supreme Court's decision, Associate Justice Brandeis said that observance by each member of the Stone Cutters' Union of the provision of their constitution which forbids such action "was essential to his own self-protection."

"It was demanded of each by loyalty to the organization and to his fellows. If, on the undisputed facts of this case, refusal to work can be enjoined, Congress created by the Sherman law and the Clayton act an instrument of imposing restraints upon labor which reminds one of involuntary servitude."

Justice Brandeis pointed out that the court had in the steel trust case that the Sherman law permits capitalists to combine in a single corporation 50 per cent of the entire industry of the United States, thus dominating the trade through its vast resources. He also called attention to the United Shoe Machinery Company case.

"It would indeed be strange," said Justice Brandeis, "if Congress had by the same act willed to deny to members of a small craft of working men the right to co-operate in simply refraining from work, when that course was the only means of self-protection against a combination of militant and powerful employers. I cannot believe that Congress did so."

SWEAT SHOP BOSSES HAVE NARROWER FIELD

New York, Aug. 3.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will cooperate with William F. Deegan, Tenement House Commissioner, to eliminate the use of apartments as manufacturing shops in violation of the tenement house law.

The Commissioner's investigation of illegal shops is in line with Governor Roosevelt's suggestion to organized factors to combat the sweatshop evil.

"It is our complaint," said Benjamin Schlesinger, president International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, "that such shops debase standards not only in the home but also in the cloak trade. Workers are subjected to unsanitary conditions and the public health is endangered because sweat shop production escapes sanitary safeguards."

Harry Uviller, general manager American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, warns members they can not indulge in sharp practices to violate agreements recently made with the Garment Workers' Union. Private arrangements with employes must be filed by the manager as a violation of the three-year contract.

TEXTILE STRIKERS ENJOINED IN SOUTH

Marion, N. C., Aug. 3.—Judge John Harwood enjoined employes of the Marion Manufacturing Company, on strike for improved work conditions.

The writ is of the "comprehensive" sort that prohibits these textile workers from engaging in any activity that in any way may interfere or embarrass operation of the company's plant.

The rights of the workers are not considered by the court, who is only interested in protecting profits and assuring the company a free and uninterrupted supply of strikebreakers.

Strikers who may induce an employe to cease work are within their legal and moral rights, but they violate the injunction and are therefore guilty of contempt of court.

Albert Hoffmann, organizer United Textile Workers, who was kidnaped by an Elizabethton mob with Edward F. McGrady, A. F. of L. representative, is assisting the Marion strikers. He is enjoined by Judge Harwood.

40-HOUR WEEK IN OMAHA

Omaha, Aug. 3.—Organized asbestos workers secured the 40-hour week and a raise when agreement that will run for two years. Wages are advanced 3 cents an hour the first year and 4 cents the second year.